60. To the above must be added the areas in Khálápúr and Karjat for which working-plans have been prepared. These areas aggregating 48,797 acres were handed over from the Northern Circle on the 1st November, 1891.

61. The result of last year's working was:—

	Lines 10'—15' broad.			Linear miles surveyed.	Posts fixed.	Test-trees felled.	Number of compartments formed.	Test-area estimated.	Area for which *data* for the preparation of working-plans were collected.	Total cost incurred.	Cost per acre.
	Cleared of re-growth, &c.	Jungle cut and cleared.	Total cut and cleared.								
		Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	No.	No.	No.	Acres.	Acres.	Rs.	Rs. a. p.
Party I	...	100·12	100·12	105·82	352	82	19	2,708·81	10,105·7	20,238	
Party II	...	40·427	40·427	43·7	784	77	18	937·85	9,994·6	13,753	
								Total...	20,100·3	33,991	1 11 ½

62. The causes of the abnormal increase in cost have been referred to above. The increase in the proportion of test-area to total area examined was, in my opinion, excessive, and need not be continued.

II.—WORKING OF THE YEAR.

(*a*). Communications and Buildings.

63. Form 51 shows the various works constructed during the period under report. The outlay on communications amounted to Rs. 2,353, and on buildings to Rs. 6,268.

64. In the Northern Division of Kánara, a drive 500 feet long, connecting the Haliyál timber-depôt with the main road, was made at a cost of Rs. 261. Two wells were constructed, one in the Haliyál-depôt and the other near the Sámbráni watch-house, for Rs. 300 each. Repairs to existing forest-roads were made (Rs. 249) and to existing watch-houses and other forest-buildings (Rs. 307).

65. In the Central Division of Kánara, the Kannigeri-Udámaki forest-road was repaired and extended by 1·06 miles (Rs. 200). One new forest watch-house was built for Rs. 300, and old watch-houses were repaired (Rs. 1,648). The well at Wadgatti was completed (Rs. 202) and Rs. 384 spent on deepening the well at Kolikeri.

66. In the Southern Division of Kánara, Rs. 507 were spent on repairs to forest watch-houses, &c. Two wells were constructed at a cost of Rs. 340, and the well in the Singanhalli timber-depot completed (Rs. 149).

67. In Belgaum, repairs to the Halshi-Nágargáli forest-road cost Rs. 1,056, and to guard-and rest-houses Rs. 483.

68. In Dhárwár, a depôt-house was built for Rs. 999.

69. In Kolába and Ratnágiri, the expenditure under this head was confined to repairs (Rs. 146).

(*b*). Protection of Forests from Injury.

(1). *General Protection and Breaches of Forest Law.*

70. The following statement shows the number of prosecutions for breaches of Forest Rules during the years 1891-92 and 1892-93 :—

Divisions.	Cases of year 1891-92.							Cases of year 1892-93.							Percentage of failures.	
	Pending in Court on 1st April 1891.	Taken into Court during the year.	Total.	Disposed of by Magistrates during the year.			Pending in Court on 31st March 1892.	Pending in Court on 1st April 1892.	Taken into Court during the year.	Total.	Disposed of by Magistrates during the year.			Pending in Court on 30th June 1893.	1891-92.	1892-93.
				Convictions.	Acquittals.	Total.					Convictions.	Acquittals.	Total.			
Northern Division, Kánara	...	21	21	10	11	21	...	...	119	119	68	48	116	3	52	41
Central Division, Kánara	...	20	20	16	4	20	...	...	18	18	10	8	18	...	20	44
Southern Division, Kanára	1	6	7	5	2	7	...	...	100	*100	83	7	90	...	28	8
Belgaum	4	36	40	27	12	39	1	1	141	142	126	14	140	2	31	10
Dhárwár	...	7	7	6	1	7	...	...	29	29	18	9	27	2	14	33
Bijápur	1	8	9	8	...	8	1	1	14	15	14	1	15	...	...	7
Kolába	5	122	127	103	19	122	5	5	133	138	102	32	134	4	16	24
Ratnágiri	...	29	29	21	7	28	1	1	35	36	17	18	35	1	25	51
Total ...	11	249	260	196	56	252	8	8	589	597	438	137	575	12	22	24

* Ten cases were withdrawn, as the accused died.

71. A large number of cases was instituted in the Northern Division of Kánara, where, in no less than 101 cases, people, in spite of warnings, were caught in the act of taking firewood from the closed area, within the 5-miles-radius round Kárwár. Of these, 45 were dismissed by the Magistrate on the ground that they were "first offences," and in 56 cases the offenders were punished. In regard to these convictions, the Collector remarks that "the punishments do not seem to have been deterrent, as the offence is still, I am sorry to notice, most prevalent in the neighbourhood of Kárwár."

72. Only 14 cases were tried in connection with offences committed in the important forests of the Supa- and Haliyál-ranges, from which all the valuable timber of the Northern Division is obtained. Of these, 8 were cases of incendiarism; and, in 6 out of the 8, convictions were obtained, the offenders in each case getting off with fines. The remaining cases in the Northern Division call for no remark.

73. If it were not for the cases that occurred inside the 5 miles' limit round Kárwár, which concerned only a very small community, the increase in the number of cases that occurred in this Division would call for no remark. It was no doubt necessary to take these cases into Court, as the thieving of wood for sale that goes on in the neighbourhood of Kárwár, and a few other large towns in the vicinity of forests, cannot be arrested by other means.

74. In Belgaum, there was an increase of 105 cases. This is reported to have been entirely due to illicit grazing in the Khánápúr- and Gokak-ranges. In the Khánápúr-range, there were 79 prosecutions for grazing cattle in areas closed for regeneration. Most of the people concerned in these cases were professional graziers *(gaulis)*, and cartmen employed by fuel-contractors, many of whom had been previously punished for similar offences, besides being personally warned by the Divisional Officer.

75. Under the circumstances, it appears that the Divisional Officers of Belgaum and the Northern Division of Kánara could not have acted differently, and the large decrease in the percentage of failures in Belgaum tends to show that the cases there were carefully considered before being taken into Court. The increased percentage in the Northern Division of Kánara is accounted for by the number of cases dismissed in Kárwár, not because proof was wanting, but because the offenders were brought up for trial for the first time.

76. The Divisional Officer, Belgaum, reports that the practice of grazing cattle in areas closed for regeneration was becoming so common in spite of warning, impounding, and compounding, that nothing but prosecution remained to be tried. Sixteen cases of this kind occurred at Nágargáli within the space of 2 months, all the offenders belonging to a small settlement of *gaulis* residing there.

77. In Central Kánara, the percentage of failures was high, but, as the number of cases is small, the percentage is not a very safe guide to the degree of care and judgment exercised by the Divisional Officer in undertaking prosecutions. The Divisional Officer reports that the 6 cases that failed in Yellápur concerned the illicit cutting of *ráb*, and that they were dismissed by the Subordinate Magistrate, because he considered them trivial.

78. It is not easy to say exactly where to draw the line in cases of this kind. Most *ráb* cases are, in themselves, trivial, as regards the value of the produce stolen, and there is a natural reluctance on the part of Magistrates to convict. The degree of culpability of the offenders depends, however, on the persistence with which they and their neighbours carry on illicit loppings and cuttings (for garden-owners do not confine their depredations to leaves, or even small branches). In committing offences of this nature, the garden-proprietors of the Central and Southern Divisions are most persistent, and the collective and cumulative damage done to the forests is serious and extensive. If these 6 cases had not failed, the percentage of failures in the Central Division would have been reduced to 11½.

79. There were 7 cases in Ratnágiri more than in the previous year, and the percentage of failures increased 26 per cent. The increase in the number of cases is due, the Divisional Officer reports, to the failure of warnings and compoundings in previous years and the necessity of resorting to prosecution to stop illicit *ráb*-cutting. The increased percentage of failures is ascribable, in a great measure, to the uncertainty of the law in regard to the rights of occupants in reserved trees. Even in cases in which the accused admitted having cut down reserved trees, the Magistrate acquitted them on the ground that the trees were not the property of Government. The adverse decision of the High Court in the Támbé-case, in which it was ruled that, under Dunlop's proclamation, Government renounced all rights in reserved trees on occupants' lands, must naturally guide the decision of the lower Courts in similar cases. In order to settle the question, steps have been taken to carry out the instructions conveyed in Government Resolution No. $\frac{4227}{60-\text{Confl.}}$ dated 13th June, 1893.

80. A large increase (83) occurred in the number of cases taken into Court in the Southern Division of Kánara. The Divisional Officer reports that it is due to the large number of cases of *soppu* (green leaves, &c., for manure) that occurred. The percentage of failures fell from 29 to 8.

81. In justification of the increase, the Divisional Officer remarks that, in the Siddápur taluka, the jungles have been already destroyed, to a great extent, by garden-cultivators, a statement which is quite true.

82. Appendix 52A shows details of cases of misappropriation of timber and other produce, as required by Government-Resolution No. 7232, dated 12th September, 1892. Appendix 52B shows datails of cases compounded under Section 67 of the Forest Act.

83. The cases dealt with under Section 67 of the Forest-Act were :—

Divisions.	1891-92.				1892-93.			
	Total number of cases disposed of.	Number of cases commuted.	Number of cases discharged.	Amount of compensation recovered.	Total number of cases disposed of.	Number of cases commuted.	Number of cases discharged.	Amount of compensation recovered.
				Rs.				Rs.
Northern Division, Kánara	8	8	...	49	15	13	2	89
Central Division, Kánara	61	60	1	197	22	20	2	103
Southern Division, Kánara	45	45	...	91	4	4	...	53
Belgaum	210	210	...	351	475	475	...	580
Dhárwár	65	65	...	180	37	37	...	83
Bijápur	49	49	...	215	83	83	...	188
Kolába	167	167	...	546	154	154	...	871
Ratnágiri	199	199	...	587	126	123	3	612
Total ...	804	803	1	2,216	916	909	7	2,579

84. Belgaum shows an increase of 265 cases, Bijápur 34, and the Northern Division, Kánara, 5.

85. The large increase in Belgaum was due to offences on account of firewood removed from forests without permit. There were 317 cases in which people, (principally *Lamánis*) who live by collecting and selling firewood under the permit-system, were detected in the act of taking wood, without permits, for sale in towns.

86. Mr. Murray attributes the increase to greater activity on the part of the protective establishment. The fees levied by the Forest-Department are very light (1 anna for a man's load, 9 pies for a woman's, and 6 for a child's), and there is, therefore, no excuse for evading payment; compounding cannot, therefore, be considered a severe mode of dealing with such cases.

87. The compensation, accepted in Belgaum, was light. If the 3 cases involving compensation of Rs. 50, Rs. 60 and Rs. 103 be deducted, there remain Rs. 367-14-3 to be divided amongst 472 cases, or an average of 12½ annas each; and of the total number (475), 417 cases came under the category "Re 1, or under".

88. The increase in the number of cases compounded in Bijápur has not been satisfactorily accounted for by the Divisional Officer, who, as yet, knows nothing of the district. The Collector expresses the opinion that there is no ground for complaint with regard either to the institution of prosecutions, or the working of Section 67 of the Act.

89. In the Northern Division of Kánara, the total number of cases came to only 13, which is a very small number for the largest and most important Division of the Circle.

90. The number of cases in which damages amounting to one rupee, two rupees, and so on, up to the maximum, were recovered under Section 67 of the Forest-Act, is given in Appendix 52C.

91. Appendix 52 shows the number of cases compounded and taken into Court during the period under report. The following shows the figures for 1891-92 and 1892-93 :—

Division.	Taken into Court.		Compounded under Section 67.		Total number of cases.	
	1891-92.	1892-93.	1891-92.	1892-93.	1891-92.	1892-93.
Northern Division, Kánara ...	21	119	8	13	29	132
Central Division, Kánara ...	20	18	60	20	80	38
Southern Division, Kánara ...	6	100	45	4	51	104
Belgaum	36	141	210	475	246	616
Dhárwár	7	29	65	37	72	66
Bijápúr	8	14	49	83	57	97
Kolába	122	133	167	154	289	287
Ratnágiri	29	35	199	123	228	158
Total ...	249	589	803	909	1,052	1,498

92. *Civil Suits.*—An important appeal from the decision of a Subordinate Magistrate was made, in the High Court, by one Antáji Keshav Támbé of Asgo'li, bearing on the question of the right of Government to teak-trees in occupied khoti lands in Ratnágiri. The High Court decided against Government. This decision and its effects on protection have been already referred to above; it is not considered to be generally conclusive, and the general question regarding the rights of occupants has still to be decided.

93. The increase in the number of cases compounded, or brought into Court, was, in some degree, due to the fact that the period now under report comprises 15 months, while the figures for 1891-92 were only for 12 months.

(2). *Protection from Fire.*

94. The usual operations under this head were carried out, and a larger area was fire-traced in all Divisions excepting that of Northern Kánara.

95. The results of the year under report compare favourably with those of the year before, except as regards the cost, which has increased from 16·4 to 19·34 rupees per square mile.

96. The following table shows the results for each Division :—

Division.	Area in Square Miles.			Proportion of failures to area attempted.	Cost.		Proportion of area under fire-protection to total area of Reserves.
	Attempted	Failures.	Protected.		Per square mile protected.	Per acre protected.	
Northern Division, Kánara	509·93	·84	509·09	·17	24·64	7·3	...
Central Division, Kánara...	184·29	3·69	180·6	2·00	39·04	11·7	...
Southern Division, Kánara	73·30	1·78	71·52	2·42	11·55	3·46	...
Belgaum	256·07	3·45	252·62	1·3	7·21	2·16	...
Dhárwár	56·43	5·22	51·21	9·25	12·71	3·81	...
Bijápur	45·31	·08	45·23	·17	11·05	3·31	...
Kolába	92·43	4·13	88·30	4·46	2·04	·61	...
Ratnágiri	20·13	·01	20·12	·05	·44	·13	...
Total in 1892-93 ...	1,238	19	1,219	1·53	19·34	5·8	62·6
Total in 1891-92 ...	1,046	25	1,021	2·39	16·14	4·8	53·2
Increase or Decrease in 1892-93 ...	+192	−6	+198	−·86	+3·2	+1·0	+9·4

97. The most successful, and at the same time cheapest, operations were carried out in Ratnágiri. No doubt the marked success attained there is due to the fact that cattle are excluded from the forest-area and the people have less inducement to set fire to the jungles there than in other parts of the Circle.

98. The cost per square mile in the Central Division, Kánara, has increased from 21·15 to 39·04 rupees. The Divisional Officer has given no satisfactory reason for the increased cost of protection.

99. The cost of operations in the Northern Division, Kánara, also increased from 18·89 to 24·64 rupees, and for this the Divisional Forest-Officer gives no reason.

100. In the Southern Division, Kánara, the expenses were reduced one-half.

101. In Belgaum, the area specially protected was increased from 170 to 252 miles. Unfortunately, great damage was done in the areas closed for regeneration in the Railway-fuel-reserve. The Divisional Officer reports that there is every reason to believe that several of the fires were purposely caused, but the offenders could not be traced. With reference to the areas burnt in the Railway-fuel-reserves, the Divisional Officer adds, "the harm caused by a fire in fuel-cuttings is out of all proportion to that done in ordinary open forest. In the former a large portion of the young growth is completely destroyed, its place being taken by new shoots several years in retard of the age of the unburnt portion. When the plants are not completely destroyed, their leaves are burnt up and not replaced until the ensuing year, whereby a whole year's growth is lost. Unless some special penalty can be imposed upon the villagers, it is doubtful whether any departmental measures will ever be sufficient to check these fires, which render any attempt at a systematic plan of working the fuel-forests absolutely futile."

102. The forests, referred to in the above quotation, which extend to 45,000 acres, are extremely valuable and give an annual nett yield of about Rs. 2-12-0 per acre. With proper protection, they could be made to yield in the course of the next 30 years a much larger